

**Patent**

U.S. Ser. No.: 10/054,638

Response to the Final Office Action mailed 20 March 2007

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An immunological composition comprising a combination of two, three, or four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein each of the conjugates comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A, C, W-135 or Y conjugated to a carrier protein, wherein at least one serogroup is W-135 or Y, further wherein said immunological composition is capable of eliciting an immune response in a mammal to one or more of said polysaccharides.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, wherein at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup ~~of~~ A or C.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of two distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein said immunological composition comprises the first conjugate ~~comprises~~ comprising a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* serogroup W-135 and the second conjugate comprising a ~~purified capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroups Y, A, and~~

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6 purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* serogroup selected from the group consisting of Y, A, and C.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said two distinct and separately made purified protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y and the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* serogroup A or C.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

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Claim 29 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said three distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises the purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup W-135 and the second conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroup Y, A, and C and the third conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroup Y, A, and C, wherein the second conjugate is different from the third conjugate.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said four distinct and separately made protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein the first conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup W-135, the second conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup Y, the third conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup A, and the fourth conjugate comprises the purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup C.

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Claim 34. (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18 further comprising an adjuvant.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said adjuvant comprises an aluminum adjuvant, ~~is selected from the group consisting of aluminum adjuvant, Freund's adjuvant, (N (2 Deoxy 2 L leucylamino  $\beta$  D glucopyranosyl) N-octadecyldodecanoylamide hydroacetate), (3  $\beta$  [N (N',N' dimethylaminoethane) carbamoyl] cholesterol) "DC-chol, Poly[di(carboxylatophoxy)phosphazene] "pcpp", monophosphoryl lipid A, oligodeoxynucleotide motifs "CpG", "QS-21, cholera toxin, and formyl-methionyl-peptide.~~

Claim 36 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 35, wherein said aluminum adjuvant is aluminum hydroxide.

Claims 37-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said carrier protein is a single carrier protein species.

Claim 47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 46, wherein said single carrier protein species comprises an inactivated bacterial toxin selected from the group consisting of diphtheria toxoid, CRM197, tetanus toxoid, pertussis toxoid, *E. coli* LT, *E. coli* ST, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* exotoxin A.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin is diphtheria toxoid.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin is CRM197.

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Claim 51 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33, wherein said composition is formulated as a sterile liquid.

Claim 52-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable preservative.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 56, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable preservative is selected from the group consisting of benzyl alcohol, parabens, thimerosal, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride.